Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /102 W
----------118707 241142Z /15
O R 241100Z MAR 78 ZFF JIDDA
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7006
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 590

JIDDA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE
LUSAKA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG
DAR ES SALAAM FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA-RHODESIA: PIK BOTHA DEMARCHE

1. PIK BOTHA CALLED ME AT 10:00 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT IN
HIGH STATE OF EXCITEMENT OVER NEWS REPORTS ABOUT COUNCIL FOR
NAMIBIA ACTIONS IN LUSAKA AND STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO ANDY YOUNG.

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2. ON THE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT A VIOLENTLY ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN
RESOLUTION WAS BEING ACTED ON. AHTISAARI, ACCORDING TO PRESS
SOURCES, HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING THE DRAFT. HE
DESCRIBED THE COUNCIL'S ACTION AS AN "EXCEEDINGLY SERIOUS"
MATTER AND AHTISAARI'S PART AS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" MAKING
HIS ROLE IN A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT OUT OF THE QUESTION.

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3. ON STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO ANDY YOUNG, BOTHA SAID THESE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO FURNISH ARMS TO MOZAMBIQUE, BOTSWANA, ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA. BOTHA ASKED HOW CAN THE UNITED STATES CONTEMPLATE PROVIDING ARMS TO COMMUNIST STATES LIKE MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA WHICH ARE INTENT ON DESTROYING THE NASCENT EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. HE FOUND THIS INCREDIBLE AND FRAUGHT WITH THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR US-SA RELATIONS.

4. BOTHA SAID HE WAS BEING BOMBARDED BY PRESS REQUESTS FOR COMMENT ON THESE TWO DEVELOPMENTS. HE HAD TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT BUT WOULD NOT DO SO ON THE BASIS OF NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS. HE ASKED IF I COULD VERIFY WHAT THE PRESS WAS CARRYING. I TOLD HIM I HAD ONLY SEEN THE TEXT OF A DRAFT DECLARATION BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL (LUSAKA 964). THE DRAFT CONTAINED THE RHETORIC THAT CHARACTERIZES MANY OF ITS RESOLUTIONS. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT ITS STATUS IS OR HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MODIFIED. I HAD NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER ON THE ROLE OF AHTISAARI IN THE PREPARATION OF THE DOCUMENT. I REMINDED HIM THAT THE FIVE POWER EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE NAMIBIAN SOLUTION WAS BEING DONE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DISTRACTED FROM THAT CENTRAL FACT. BOTHA RESPONDED HE WAS AWARE OF ALL THIS, BUT HE WAS THE ONE WHO HAD TO COPE WITH THE PRESS, THE PUBLIC AND CRITICS IN THE COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT WHEN THESE MATTERS HIT THE FAN. ON THE ALLEGED STATEMENTS OF ANDY YOUNG, I TOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTHA I HAD NO INFORMATION, BUT I WOULD UNDERTAKE TO OBTAIN THE TEXT OF WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE SAID IF HE WISHED. I NOTED THE PROCLIVITY OF SOME NEWSMEN TO QUOTE ANDY OUT OF CONTEXT. BOTHA SAID BECAUSE OF THIS HE WAS NOT GOING TO COMMENT UNTIL HE SAW TEXT AND CONTEXT OF WHAT WAS SAID AND ASKED THAT I OBTAIN FOR HIM (1) WHAT ACTION THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA HAD TAKEN AND (2) THE YOUNG STATEMENTS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO BOTHA.

6. DEPARTMENT WILL KEEP IN MIND THAT WE ARE NOT SURE OF BOTHA'S INTENTIONS IN MAKING THESE DEMARCHES. IF HE IS WORKING FOR A SETTLEMENT, THE ACTION OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THE CRITICS OF A MODERATE NAMIBIAN SOLUTION AND COMPLICATES BOTHA'S TASK.

7. HE COULD ALSO BE USING THE LUSAKA MEETING TO BUILD UP A CASE FOR GOING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ROUTE. WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE FINAL ACTION AT LUSAKA WILL BE OR THE ROLE OF AHTISAARI IN IT, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR REPLY SHOULD FOCUS ON THE CENTRAL FACT THAT THE FIVE AND SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE THE DECISIVE ACTION. THIS LEAVES THE PROBLEM OF AHTISAARI WHO, BY VIRTUE OF

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HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE JOB, PREVENTS
US FROM MAKING A TOTAL SEPARATION BETWEEN UNSC AND THE
COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3204438
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA-RHODESIA: PIK BOTHA DEMARCHE
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
To: SECSTATE WASHDC LUSAKA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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